



# Food & Drug Council.

I N C O R P O R A T E D

## FDC UPDATE

May-June 2009

# President Paul A. Kenny honored for commitment to trade union principles

**P**aul A. Kenny, President of the Food & Drug Council and Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 630, was honored recently by three labor organizations for his achievements on behalf of union solidarity.

On March 31, Kenny received the first-ever Solidarity Award from UFCW Local 135 at its steward conference in San Diego. Then, on April 10, he was presented the La Raza Unity Leadership Award during the Instituto De La Raza 2009 Labor Awards Dinner in San Francisco. Finally, on April 16, he received a plaque of appreciation from UFCW Local 1167 at its steward conference in San Bernardino.

The award presentations called attention to his union's resolute support for members of the UFCW during the supermarket strike and lockout of 2003-04. During that epic labor struggle, members of Teamsters Local 630



*President Kenny receives first-ever "Solidarity" Award from UFCW Local 135 President Mickey Kasparian.*



*President Kenny speaks at the La Raza dinner in San Francisco.*

refused to cross UFCW picket lines.

Kenny also was praised for his continuing efforts to strengthen alliances in the Labor Movement as President of the FDC, which has been revitalized under his leadership.

In his remarks, Kenny spoke about his deep roots as a trade unionist. He was born on Labor Day, his grandfather was a union pipefitter and his father



*President Kenny receives plaque of appreciation from UFCW Local 1167 President Bill Lathrop.*

belonged to the Retail Clerks Union, the forerunner of the UFCW. All seven of his brothers and sisters now work in union jobs.

Kenny recalled his father's experiences working at a non-union A&P store in New York. "This was at a time when you didn't worry about getting fired for walking a picket line, you worried about getting shot," he

said.

When Kenny was eight years old, his father moved the family to Simi Valley, Calif., where he found work at a Thriftmart store. Years later, Paul Kenny joined the Teamsters and loaded trucks at Certified Grocers' Los Angeles distribution center.

Decades later, Kenny still values his connections with the UFCW.

"The Food & Drug Council started in 1940 when the Teamsters and the Retail Clerks got together to organize Ralphs," he said. "That alliance is just as powerful today."

He recalled how, during the supermarket strike and lock-out, "the employers told me that they planned on running the UFCW out of the union business." That encounter only intensified Kenny's resolve to support the UFCW in its hour of need.

"In my union's contract, our language of solidarity is so strong, that we honor anybody's picket line," he said.

(818) 591-7482 • Fax: (818) 591-0643 • P.O. Box 8160, Calabasas, CA 91372 • [FDCouncil@aol.com](mailto:FDCouncil@aol.com)

[www.FoodandDrugCouncil.org](http://www.FoodandDrugCouncil.org)

